

Numbers 28-29 - Thursday, February 10th, 2011

28:1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Command the children of Israel, and say to them, 'My offering, My food for My offerings made by fire as a sweet aroma to Me, you shall be careful to offer to Me at their appointed time.'

- It may seem odd that once again we have yet another redundancy as it relates to the Israelites bringing their offerings to the Lord.
- Actually, both chapters 28 and 29 here in Numbers dealing with the offerings, sort of repeat what we saw back in our study of Leviticus.
- Perhaps this begs the question of why is it here again, and why do we need to study about the offerings yet again. I'm glad you asked!

- I'll offer two answers as to why I believe it is that we have these offerings mentioned again, and why it is that we should study it again.
- First, it's here again in Numbers because this generation were much younger back when it was given in the book of Leviticus.
- Second, we need to study it again because it's a much needed reminder not to mention, we get more out of it the second time around.

Adam Clarke had some interesting insight in this regard. He wrote; " It is not easy to account for the reason of the introduction of these precepts here, which had been so circumstantially delivered before in different parts of the books of Exodus and Leviticus. It is possible that the daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly services had been considerably interrupted for several years, owing to the unsettled state of the people in the wilderness, and that it was necessary to repeat these laws for two reasons: 1. Because they were now about to enter into the promised land, where these services must be established and constant. 2. Because the former generations being all dead, multitudes of the present might be ignorant of these ordinances.

3 "And you shall say to them, 'This is the offering made by fire which you shall offer to the LORD: two male lambs in their first year without blemish, day by day, as a regular burnt offering. 4 The one lamb you shall offer in the morning, the other lamb you shall offer in the evening, 5 and one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering mixed with one-fourth of a hin of pressed oil. 6 It is a regular burnt offering which was ordained at Mount Sinai for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD. 7 And its drink offering shall be one-fourth of a hin for each lamb; in a holy place you shall pour out the drink to the LORD as an offering. 8 The other lamb you shall offer in the evening; as the morning grain offering and its drink offering, you shall offer it as an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

- I find it interesting that these offerings were to be male lambs, without blemish, and they were to be offered both morning and evening.
- This was to take place every day, day by day, and it would be a burnt offering for a sweet aroma, made by fire to the Lord.
- In other words, this had to be done continually, in order for the burning of the flesh, symbolically, in order to be pleasing unto the Lord.
- I suppose you know where I'm going with this, so suffice it to say, Jesus is the fulfillment once and for all satisfying all these offerings.

As one commentator well noted; "Needless to say that all speaks of Christ. He is seen in all the offerings, in the lambs, the young bullocks, the ram, the meal offerings and all the others. In Christ God has found His delight."

9 'And on the Sabbath day two lambs in their first year, without blemish, and two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering, mixed with oil, with its drink offering --10 this is the burnt offering for every Sabbath, besides the regular burnt offering with its drink offering.

- Notice that the Sabbath offering was to be two lambs instead of one, and it was to be sacrificed every morning and every evening.
- This may carry with it the thought similar to the gathering of twice as much Manna for the Sabbath so that there would be enough.
- One commentator has suggested that it speaks to the necessity of doubling up on our devotions for those days in which we worship.

11 'At the beginnings of your months you shall present a burnt offering to the LORD: two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year, without blemish;12 three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering, mixed with oil, for each bull; two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering, mixed with oil, for the one ram;13 and one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour, mixed with oil, as a grain offering for each lamb, as a burnt offering of sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.14 Their drink offering shall be half a hin of wine for a bull, one-third of a hin for a ram, and one-fourth of a hin for a lamb; this is the burnt offering for each month throughout the months of the year.15 Also one kid of the goats as a sin offering to the LORD shall be offered, besides the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.

- Here we see the sacrifices increasing at the beginning of the month for what becomes the appointed times for the monthly offerings.
- Perhaps this could help bring into clearer focus the doubling of the Sabbath offerings we read about in the previous verses.
- By way of application, here's a thought; our service for the Lord, and our offerings to the Lord should be increasing not decreasing.

- Rather than looking for ways to give less, we should be looking for ways to give more, especially at certain times for specific reasons.
- By way of example; the Lord will put someone or some need on our hearts to give to over and above what we're already giving.
- In the New Testament there are three types of giving; first there's the tithe. Second are the offerings, and third there's alms for the poor.

16 'On the fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the LORD. 17 And on the fifteenth day of this month is the feast; unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days.

- This is where we see yet another reiteration of the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread, both of which were given in Exodus.
- For the benefit of those who were not with us during our study of these Feasts, it's probably worth mentioning how Christ fulfills them.
- The first three of the feasts; Passover Unleavened Bread and First Fruits, pointed prophetically to Christ's death burial and resurrection.

- This will become germane to our understanding as we complete this chapter. God wants them to observe these Holy Day's as Feasts.
- As I'm sure you're aware, we don't observe these New Moons, Feasts, or Sabbath's because Christ has already fulfilled them.

Colossians 2:16-17 "Let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ."

- This passage refers to the feasts as a "mere shadow" of things to come, the substance of them being found in Christ.
- These feasts were prophetic types, or symbols, that pointed to Jesus Christ and which would be fulfilled in Him.

REFERENCE	FEAST	FULFILLMENT
(Leviticus 23:5)	Passover	The Crucifixion
(Leviticus 23:6-8)	Unleavened Bread	The Burial
(Leviticus 23:9-14)	First-Fruits	The Resurrection
(Leviticus 23:15-22)	Pentecost	The Church Age
Leviticus 23:23-25)	Trumpets	The Rapture of the Church
(Leviticus 23:26-32)	Day of Atonement	The 2 nd Coming
(Leviticus 23:33-43)	Tabernacles	The Kingdom Age and Heaven

18 On the first day you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work. 19 And you shall present an offering made by fire as a burnt offering to the LORD: two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year. Be sure they are without blemish. 20 Their grain offering shall be of fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah you shall offer for a bull, and two-tenths for a ram; 21 you shall offer one-tenth of an ephah for each of the seven lambs; 22 also one goat as a sin offering, to make atonement for you. 23 You shall offer these besides the burnt offering of the morning, which is for a regular burnt offering. 24 In this manner you shall offer the food of the offering made by fire daily for seven days, as a sweet aroma to the LORD; it shall be offered besides the regular burnt offering and its drink offering. 25 And on the seventh day you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work.

- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that the priests were required to bring these offerings to God as well.
- Not only was each family to bring a Passover Lamb to God as an offering for their household, but the priest was to offer it for the nation.
- It's important to note that we will be celebrating this Passover feast with the Lord in heaven when we are with Him in His Kingdom.

Luke 22:15-16 NIV And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. (16) For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

26 'Also on the day of the firstfruits, when you bring a new grain offering to the LORD at your Feast of Weeks, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work. 27 You shall present a burnt offering as a sweet aroma to the LORD: two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year, 28 with their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for each bull, two-tenths for the one ram, 29 and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs; 30 also one kid of the goats, to make atonement for you. 31 Be sure they are without blemish. You shall present them with their drink offerings, besides the regular burnt offering with its grain offering.

- This now is the Feast of First-Fruits, which as we had already discussed, was fulfilled at the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:20 NIV (20) But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- Also, we have the Feast of Weeks mentioned which is also known as the feast of Pentecost, and was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost.

29:1 'And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work. For you it is a day of blowing the trumpets. 2 You shall offer a burnt offering as a sweet aroma to the LORD: one young bull, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year, without blemish. 3 Their grain offering shall be fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for the bull, two-tenths for the ram, 4 and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs; 5 also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, to make atonement for you; 6 besides the burnt offering with its grain offering for the New Moon, the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings, according to their ordinance, as a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

- Here we have the Feast of Trumpets which has yet to be fulfilled, and I believe will soon be fulfilled at the rapture of the Bride of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 NIV (51) Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— (52) in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

7 'On the tenth day of this seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall afflict your souls; you shall not do any work. 8 You shall present a burnt offering to the LORD as a sweet aroma: one young bull, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year. Be sure they are without blemish. 9 Their grain offering shall be of fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for the bull, two-tenths for the one ram, 10 and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs; 11 also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, besides the sin offering for atonement, the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings.

- This offering is for the Feast of Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, and speaks of the 2nd Coming at the end of the 7 year tribulation.

Romans 11:25-26 NIV I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. (26) And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

12 'On the fifteenth day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work, and you shall keep a feast to the LORD seven days.

- This was for the Feast of Tabernacles, which will be fulfilled during the Millennium, that 1,000 year reign on earth in its pre-fallen state.

13 You shall present a burnt offering, an offering made by fire as a sweet aroma to the LORD: thirteen young bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year. They shall be without blemish. 14 Their grain offering shall be of fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for each of the thirteen bulls, two-tenths for each of the two rams, 15 and one-tenth for each of the fourteen lambs; 16 also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering. 17 On the second day present twelve young bulls, two rams, fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish, 18 and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance; 19 also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings. 20 On the third day present eleven bulls, two rams, fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish, 21 and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance; 22 also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering. 23 On the fourth day present ten bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year, without blemish, 24 and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance; 25 also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering. 26 On the fifth day present nine bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish, 27 and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance; 28 also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering. 29 On the sixth day present eight bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish, 30 and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance; 31 also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering. 32 On the seventh day present seven bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish, 33 and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance; 34 also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering. 35 On the Eighth day you shall have a sacred assembly. You shall do no customary work. 36 You shall present a burnt offering, an offering made by fire as a sweet aroma to the LORD: one bull, one ram, seven lambs in their first year without blemish, 37 and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bull, for the ram, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance; 38 also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering. 39 These you shall present to the LORD at your appointed feasts (besides your vowed offerings and your freewill offerings) as your burnt offerings and your grain offerings, as your drink offerings and your peace offerings." 40 So Moses told the children of Israel everything, just as the LORD commanded Moses.

- Wow, that's a lot to be offered, even if it only had to be given on an annual basis. It's still an enormous amount as an offering.
- One commentator estimated that this would've been over 1 ton of flour, 1,000 gallons of wine and oil, 13,000 oxen, and 60,000 sheep.
- Perhaps this begs the why question as it relates to the reason it needed to be so much. There are a couple of different thoughts on this:
- One has suggested that it's to celebrate and commemorate the abundance that God provided for them in the Exodus and wilderness.
- Another suggested that this amount of giving to God wasn't really that much because they were only giving back what God gave them.